

**GCSE (9–1)**

*Teachers' Guide*

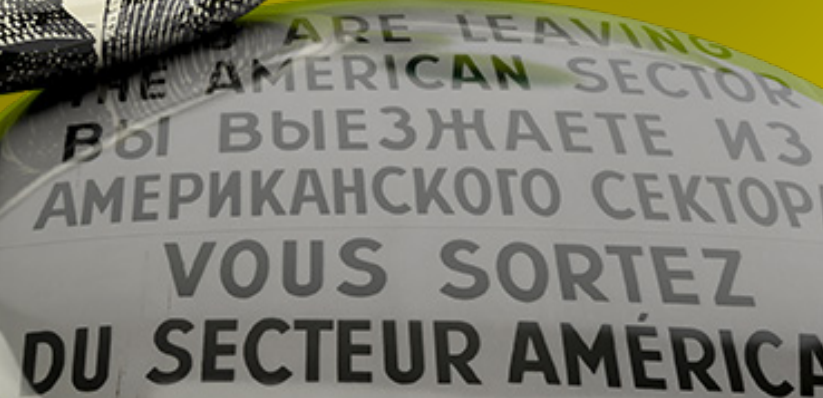
# **HISTORY A** **(EXPLAINING THE MODERN WORLD)**

J410

For first teaching in 2016

## **Framlingham Castle**

Version 1



# A journey through history



*All images, plans and maps unless otherwise stated, are copyright to English Heritage Trust/EH Guidebooks.*

## Notes for teachers

This resource has been developed to support teachers in teaching OCR Specification A; study of the historic environment: Castles: Form and Function c. 1000-1750.

It adopts a chronological and evidence-based approach to support exploration of the key areas outlined in the specification, namely; the location of the castle, its appearance, layout and function under its different owners, often reflecting the historical context through which the castle was occupied. Please note that all the text in the document is adapted from the English Heritage guidebook for Framlingham Castle, with the kind permission of English Heritage.

A site visit is not compulsory; however we would encourage this if possible. We would recommend beginning your tour at the gatehouse, the main entrance to the castle facing the town.

For further detail on Framlingham Castle please refer to the Histories pages on the English Heritage website <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/framlingham-castle/history/> and the Framlingham Castle guidebook by Nicola Stacey <http://www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/books-media/books/guidebooks/guidebook-framlingham-castle>

The guidebook is available at a reduced rate, with 20% off for every site visit made via the English Heritage Education Bookings Team <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/schools/book-a-visit/>.

The GCSE (9–1) History A (Explaining the Modern World) Teacher Guide - Framlingham Castle has been developed in conjunction with English Heritage.

# Contents

Framlingham Castle: Introduction and Overview	4
What is the layout of Framlingham castle and how has this changed over time?	5
The Key Phases	6
Framlingham under the Bigods c.1101-1306	7
Hugh Bigod	8
The Chamber Block	8
The Chapel	10
The Mere	10
Framlingham Great Park	11
Roger Bigod II	12
The Wow Factor	12
Protective Ditches	13
The Gatehouse	13
The Defensive Walls	13
The Western Tower	15
The Great Hall	15
Framlingham, home of powerful and troublesome barons	17
Framlingham under the Brothertons	17
Framlingham under the Mowbrays	17
Framlingham under the Tudors	20
Framlingham in decline	20

# Framlingham Castle

## Introduction and Overview

We hope you have been lucky enough to visit this historic site but even if you have not, we hope this guide will help you to really understand the castle and how it developed over time.

## Where is Framlingham Castle?

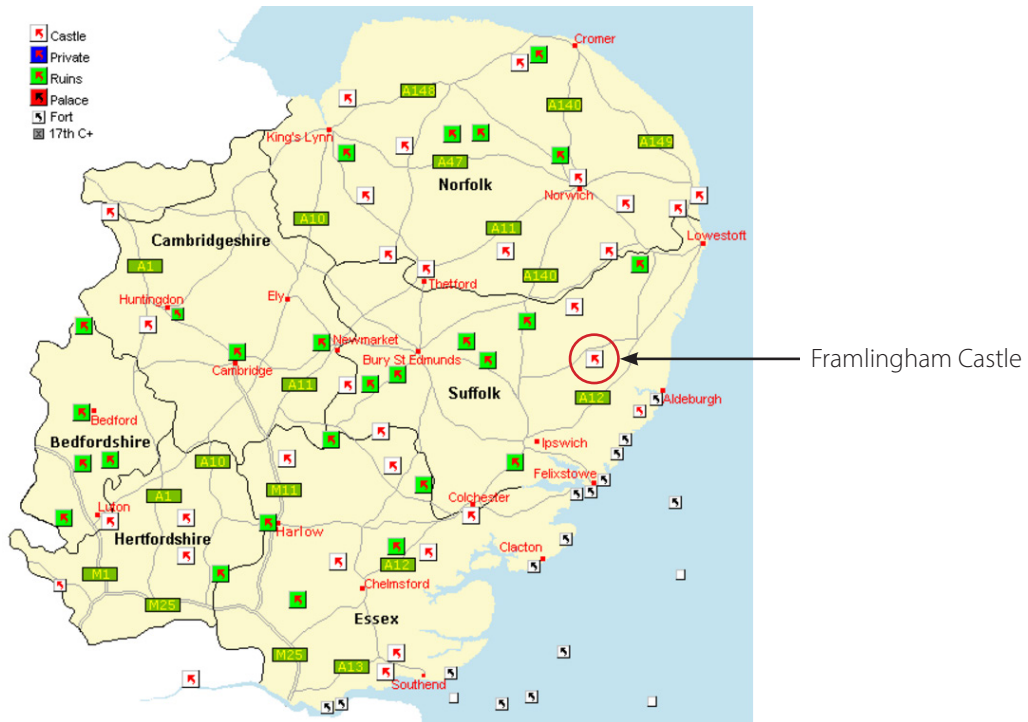


Photo credit: Map showing castles and fortifications in East Anglia by eCastles – Castles and fortifications of England & Wales



## What is the layout of Framlingham Castle and how has this changed over time?

# Framlingham Castle

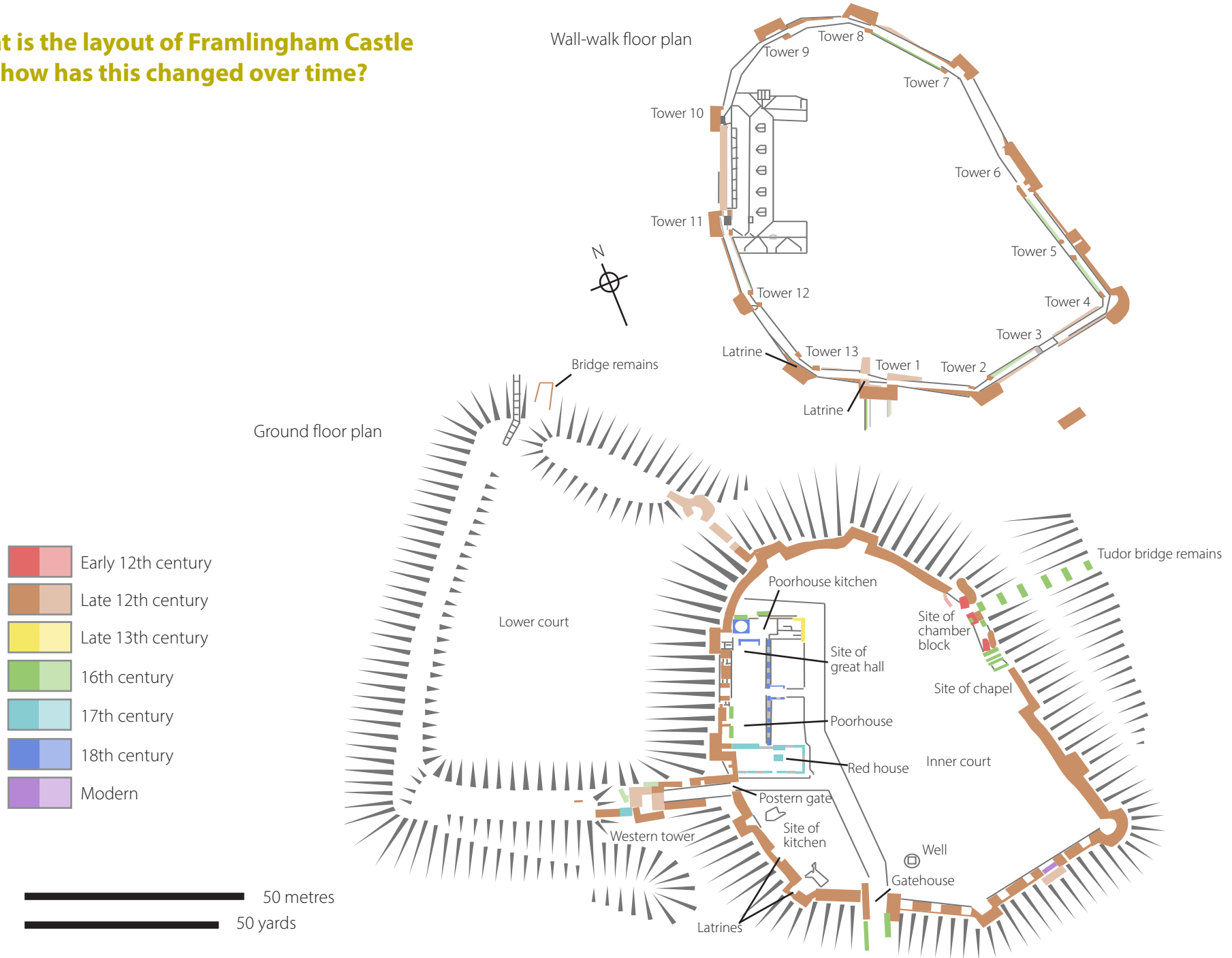


Image credit: English Heritage

## The Key Phases

Framlingham has a long, important and fascinating history. We can divide this history into phases.

1100s	<p><b>1100-1306 The rise and fall of the Bigod family</b></p> <p>The Bigods were a very interesting family who became powerful and important and then their fortunes declined. Most of the remains you see today were built by them.</p>
1200s	
1300s	<p><b>1306- 1483 Framlingham changes hands</b></p> <p>In the 14th century it passed to the Brotherton family, cousins of the king; then to the Mowbrays, created dukes of Norfolk in 1397.</p>
1400s	
1500s	<p><b>1483-1635 The Howard family</b></p> <p>The Howard family inherited Framlingham in 1483, and spent lavishly on refurbishing it. These families were the supreme magnates in East Anglia – rich, ambitious and influential at home and abroad. In the 16th century, the castle was the scene of a national drama, when it was briefly occupied by Mary Tudor, daughter of Henry VIII. Pursued by the followers of Lady Jane Grey in 1553, Mary fled to Framlingham and gathered her troops. She was at the castle when she received news that she had been proclaimed England's first ruling queen.</p>
1600s	
1700s	<p><b>Framlingham in decline 1635 onwards</b></p> <p>In 1635 the castle was sold to a rich lawyer and philanthropist, Sir Robert Hitcham. At his death a year later, he left instructions for the castle buildings to be demolished and a poorhouse built. After years of legal wrangling, the first poor families arrived in the mid-17th century and a new poorhouse building was erected in 1729. Just over a hundred years later, the last poorhouse inmates left, and the building was used as a parish hall.</p>

### ACTIVITY

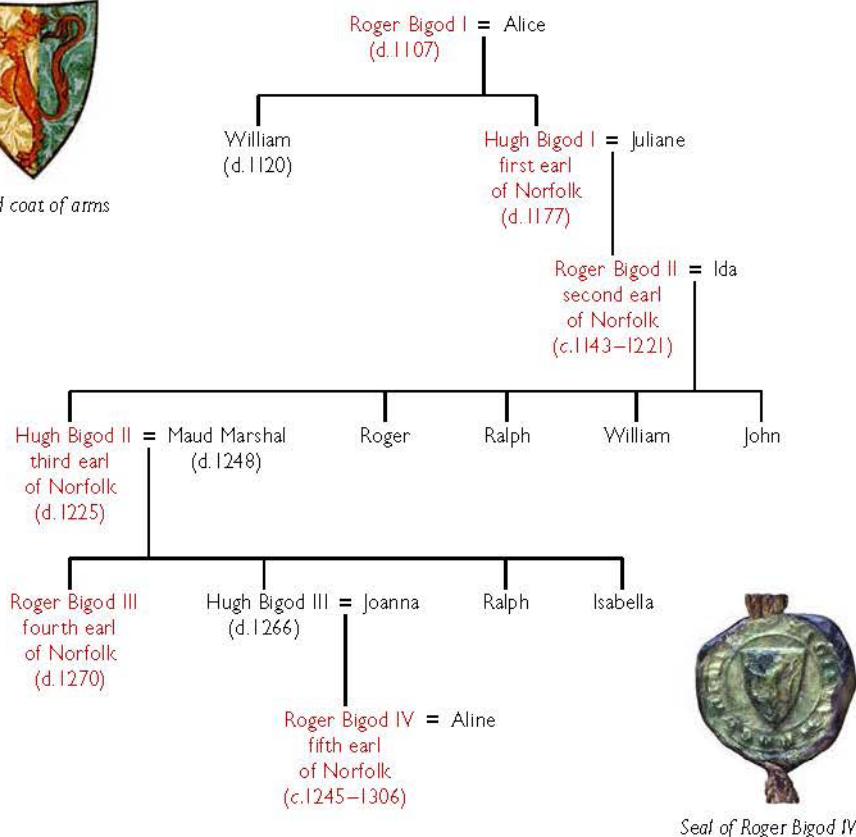
Make your own copy of this timeline on a sheet of A4 paper. Just mark in the four main phases. As you read through this guide add in details of the development of the castle. This timeline will probably become a bit messy but don't worry!

Keep it safe and at the end of the guide we will give you some ideas on how to summarise what you have learned.

## Framlingham under the Bigods c.1101-1306



Bigod coat of arms



Seal of Roger Bigod IV

Image credit: English Heritage

We do not know the exact date when the first castle at Framlingham was built. What we do know is that in 1101 King Henry I gave the manor of Framlingham to Roger Bigod (d.1107), sheriff of Norfolk. The Bigods were a Norman family but not originally of noble rank. So this was an important step up for them. When William the Conqueror invaded England he faced a long period of resistance. It is probable that Roger Bigod served William well in the role of sheriff and that is why he got this reward.

According to Domesday Book, Framlingham was already a reasonably sized town in 1086 with 600 inhabitants and said to be worth £44. That meant it was quite important. Of course, the Normans had only recently conquered England in 1066 so they would have wanted to control any important towns. However, we don't know for sure. Roger would almost certainly have fortified his new power base. There is limited evidence for the castle that Roger Bigod built at Framlingham and despite excavations on the site, it has not been possible to identify the exact layout. However, it is most likely that when he died in 1107, he left a timber fortress overlooking Framlingham's mere.

### ACTIVITY

The information on this page is a definite account of the events that unfolded, how far do you agree with this statement?

- 1 Strongly agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Not sure
- 4 Disagree
- 5 Strongly disagree

## Hugh Bigod

Roger was succeeded by his son, Hugh Bigod (d. 1177). He was keen to increase his control of East Anglia. This was a turbulent time in English history. When Henry I died in 1135, England was plunged into civil war between supporters of the two rival claimants: Stephen, Henry's nephew and Matilda, Henry's daughter.

Some barons stayed loyal to one side or the other. Some took the opportunity to try to exploit the situation. Hugh was one of these. It was a dangerous game but he seems to have played it well. He first sided with Stephen but then in 1136 made moves into Norfolk and attempted to take the royal castle at Norwich. Despite rebelling twice more against the king, he was still created the first earl of Norfolk by Stephen in August, 1140. This was another big step up in the social scale – being an earl meant you were in the top division of the nobility. However, Hugh had more tricks up his sleeve. The following year he switched allegiance to Matilda. She confirmed his title as earl. Eventually Stephen and Matilda reached an agreement. Stephen would rule but when he died the throne would pass to Matilda's son Henry, Count of Anjou on Stephen's death. This succession happened largely peacefully in 1154, with Hugh supporting the young King Henry II to the throne; Henry in turn confirmed him once again as earl of Norfolk.

So the Bigods had risen in social standing and we can see this reflected in the developments which Hugh Bigod made. As an earl, he would not have been happy living in a simple timber fortress. Framlingham still needed to be a strong military base, but it also had to be an impressive home worthy of an earl. Here are some of the changes Hugh made.

### The Chamber Block

This would have provided private accommodation for the lord and his family. We know from evidence on the site such as foundations and remains of walls that the building was two storeys high and built from stone rather than timber. It was heated with a large fireplace on each floor. It may have looked similar to this building from Temple Manor in Strood, Gloucestershire.

Next to this building would have stood a timber hall, providing appropriate reception spaces for feasting, court sessions and ceremonies. Sadly, rebuilding which took place in later years has not left much of Hugh's work behind. It may have looked something like this reconstruction drawing from Goodrich Castle in Herefordshire, however the hall in Framlingham would have been heated by an open hearth in the centre of the room.



*Image credit: English Heritage*





Image credit: English Heritage

Surviving from Hugh's time are two stone chimneys that served the chamber block. They are the earliest known surviving cylindrical chimneys in England. The stone flues had four round-headed lancet vents, designed to resemble small windows. Their construction was very fine and they were probably once topped by conical caps.



## The Chapel

The chapel lay next to the chamber block and can be identified by its high east window. It would have been the focal point of the religious life of the castle; used not only by the nobles but also by their large households. Like most parts of the castle there has been later work which hides what it looked like. However, you can see the chapel window in the image below (from here you would have your back to the poorhouse/great hall).



Image credit: English Heritage

- 1 Chambers built into the tower
- 2 12th-century stone window later opened up as a doorway
- 3 12th-century stone chimneys, extended in Tudor brick
- 4 Tudor window
- 5 Eastern window of the chapel
- 6 Recesses in the wall of the eastern tower
- 7 Impressions left by the rafters of the mid-12th-century building, encased in the curtain wall. Floor joists can be seen above

## The Mere

We do not know for sure but Hugh may also have been responsible for adapting a natural body of water to create the mere, alongside which the castle is sited. It is five times smaller now than it would have been in the Middle Ages and would have been a valuable resource, providing fresh fish and housing geese, ducks and pigeons in a dovecote on the water. Plants growing alongside the mere would have been harvested for food and medicine.

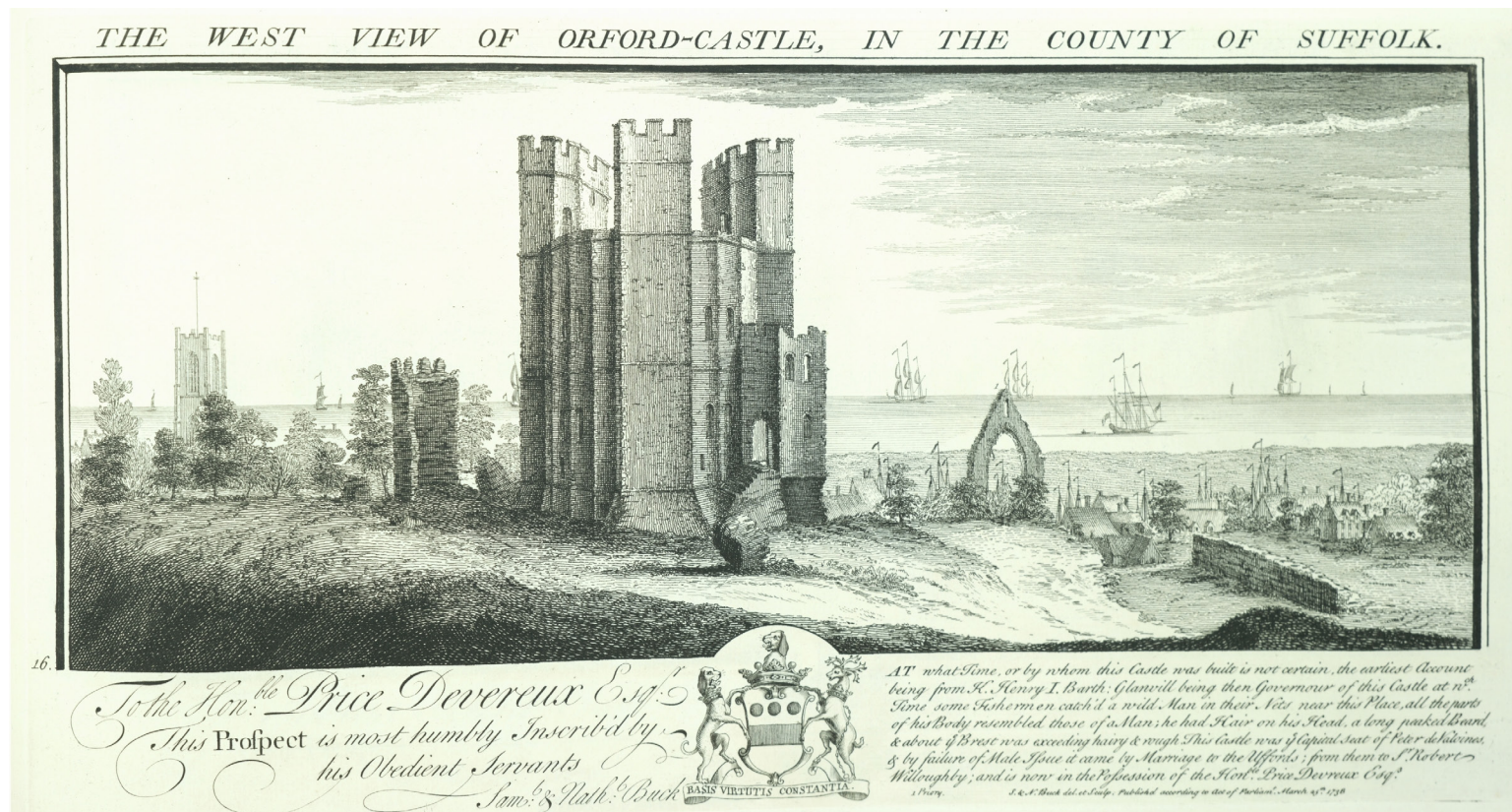


## Framlingham Great Park

Furthermore, maps from this time reveal the development of Framlingham's Great Park which stretched north and west beyond the castle walls. It was primarily a deer park, where, for generations, the earls and dukes of Norfolk, their guests and park servants hunted and caught deer and other game, such as partridges, pheasants and hares. The park was surrounded by a park pale – a timber fence on the edge of a ditch – which kept the park's deer from escaping. Deer-leaps were constructed at intervals around the pale so that wild deer could jump in to introduce new stock. Sections of Framlingham's park pale are still visible as a bank along the east of the park. The area was partly wooded and partly open glades. There were two lodges for the lord and his guests. The land surrounding the castle provided it with an income, essential supplies (such as timber for fuel and construction), entertainment and hospitality.

In 1157, keen to regain control of East Anglia, Henry II confiscated all of Hugh's properties in Norfolk and installed royal mercenaries at Framlingham Castle. Henry returned Framlingham to Hugh in 1165.

However he had already begun work on his own royal East Anglian stronghold, Orford Castle. This was designed to keep an eye on the powerful Bigod family and remind them who was really the man in charge. Here is a print from the 1720s showing Orford Castle and its location. Orford had a high tower – the design symbolising the dominance and authority of the king. We know from government documents called the Pipe Rolls, it was built between 1165 and 1173 to a total cost of £1414 9s 2d. That was a huge amount of money and it shows how determined Henry II was to create a symbol of the king's power. It held an important strategic position, partly to protect the coast but also to uphold royal authority in a region which was thickly planted with castles of powerful lords like the Bigods.



In 1173, Hugh joined a rebellion led by Robert, third earl of Leicester but this was defeated. Subsequently Henry gave instructions for the demolition of the defences of Framlingham Castle. In the Pipe Rolls there is reference to an engineer who was tasked with this job and as a royal employee all of his expenses are detailed. Hugh died on pilgrimage to Jerusalem between 1176 and 1177.

Image credit: English Heritage



## Roger Bigod II

In 1189 the Bigods returned to royal favour. Hugh's son, Roger Bigod II regained the title of earl of Norfolk from the new king Richard I (Richard the Lionheart). Roger II set about rebuilding the castle to reflect his status as a powerful magnate and to provide protection from attack. Most of the circuit of stone walls and towers that you can still see at Framlingham today is from Roger's work in the 1190s.

*Image credit: English Heritage*

## The Wow Factor

The location of the castle on a natural spur meant it would have occupied a commanding position within the surrounding landscape. Sitting alongside the mere (previously enhanced by his father), the castle would have been reflected in the water, making a powerful impression on anyone looking over from the hill opposite. As you can see from the photograph below the reflection of the castle in the mere would have been very impressive – this was no accident!





## Protective Ditches

Roger Bigod II added to the site's defences by surrounding the castle with two deep ditches. These were not filled with water and remained dry but were designed to prevent tunnelling under the walls and made breaching them almost impossible. One of the ditches is still obvious from the foot of the castle walls. The second is further out.

## The Gatehouse

Roger kept the location of the Gatehouse as it would have been under his ancestors, and it remains the main entrance to the castle, facing the town. The gatehouse he built was protected by a drawbridge and a portcullis. What is visible today is a Tudor remodelling of the original Norman gateway and as the photograph shows it would have been an intimidating sight to anyone approaching it. The portcullis slot can be seen above the gate-tower. Portcullises were generally made of a lattice of oak bars covered with iron, with iron spikes at the bottom. It would have been suspended within the gate-tower with strong ropes, which could have been slashed for quick release, or winched down. The portcullis was not an impossible barrier to penetrate, but gave the castle's defenders valuable time in case of an attack.



Image credit: English Heritage

## The Defensive Walls

The stone curtain wall, is still visible today. Standing 10.5 metres high and 2.3 metres thick it is built of local flint and septaria stone. This was a soft stone from river-beds, used by the 12th-century builders of the castle walls and towers. It was built beside the earlier chamber block and chapel established by Roger Bigod II's father. The wooden rafters of the chamber block have left their impression in the masonry and the stone chimneys were incorporated into the new walls.

As you can see from the two images below Framlingham is unusual among castles of this period. The first image, from York, shows the more typical layout of a castle of the period. By contrast Framlingham does not seem to have had a central keep or great tower and so the stone curtain wall was its final defence. It is possible that the prior existence of stone buildings inside the wall removed the need for extra fortified accommodation.



Image credit: English Heritage





FRAMLINGHAM CASTLE SUFFOLK  
The Courtyard of the Castle as it might have appeared in the thirteenth century  
by Alan Sorrell 1960

Image credit (above and below): English Heritage

The wall is divided into defensible sections by 13 towers that rise 3.8 metres above the circuit of the walls. The towers have sandstone quins at their corners and arrow loops at the top, very similar to those that would have been seen at the royal castle of Orford (but have now been entirely demolished). They would have had timber fighting platforms on the tops that would have allowed crossbowmen a wide field of fire across the ditch and along the sides of the walls. All sorts of weapons would have been contained in a typical castle's armoury, but from the 12th century onwards, the crossbow was the principal weapon used for the defence of castles such as Framlingham. The platforms would have been accessed via steps leading up from the wall walk, the quickest way to move around the curtain wall. The wall walk would have been used by sentries and archers in time of attack. It was wide enough for two people to pass, although with no near-side barriers it would have been risky in high winds.

The most vulnerable sides of the castle were the south and east, where the land is high. To counter this, the castle's thin arrow loops were concentrated on these sides. Wooden shutters in the crenels (the 'gaps' between the upstanding sections, or merlons) could be flipped up to allow archers to fire out and then pulled down to protect them from return fire. (The holes in the sides of the merlons for the shutters' hinges are still visible along the wall walk, most clearly between towers 1 and 2).

### ACTIVITY

Explain how we know medieval Framlingham was unlike most other castles of this time.





## The Western Tower

Protecting the castle from attack on the west was the western tower built, as with the rest of the curtain wall, in 1190. It protected the passage through the castle's postern gate below. The high walls of the tower would have forced attackers through a tight entrance, which could be defended from above. The tower also protected soldiers heading out of the castle into the ditch to head off the enemy through a sally port, or escape gate. The fine stone doorway is visible from the ditch outside. The tower was originally crenellated along the top, with arrowloops on each side. The western tower is often called the Prison Tower and it is possible that the deep pit in front of the tower may have served as a dungeon. You can get a good view of the western Tower from the aerial photograph below.



Image credit: English Heritage

Also dating from 1190 is another important feature of the castle; the Lower Court, lying immediately west of the castle and overlooking the mere. Defended by two towers and walled on all sides, the lower court may originally have housed granaries, barns or stables. Records from the 13th century suggest that its walls were made of stone and the remains of stone foundations inside the large earthen banks have also been discovered.

## The Great Hall

During this phase of building, Roger Bigod II also added the first stone Great Hall, for dining and entertaining guests. Located where the later poorhouse building now stands, it would have been wider than the present poorhouse building and open to the roof. Instead of the fireplaces seen today, there would probably have been an open hearth in the centre of the room. The entrance would most likely have been at the south end, near what is now the shop. It may have looked something like this image of Allington Castle in Maidstone, Kent.



Image credit: English Heritage

### ACTIVITY

'This image does not show Framlingham so it is no use to us.'

Do you agree with this view? Explain your answer fully.

Roger also ensured his castle contained some other essential features:

- Latrines – these were reached through small doorways in the curtain wall and expelled their contents down chutes out into the ditch below. An example can be seen in tower 13.
- A well – 30m deep, this is near the gate. Essential in times of siege, fresh water was also important for castle sanitation. The capping of the well is modern.
- There is also some evidence that the castle would have contained a wardrobe, armoury, treasury and stables.

### ACTIVITY

Study this section and complete the relevant section of your timeline.

### ACTIVITY

What would you say was the priority for Roger Bigod II: Secure defence or an impressive home? Study the various changes Roger made to Framlingham and decide which feature suggests which priority.

Feature of castle under Roger Bigod II	This shows his priority was security because ...	This shows his priority was an impressive home because ...
Mere		
Ditches		
Gatehouse		
Walls		
Western Tower		
Great Hall		
Latrines and well		
Dominating the landscape		



## Framlingham, home of powerful and troublesome barons

In 1213, Roger entertained King John at Framlingham, but later quarrelled with him over his demands that Roger provide men to fight for him. When the barons forced John to accept Magna Carta in 1215, the first two among the 25 listed as its enforcers were Roger Bigod II and his son Hugh II. John was furious at the humiliation and in 1216 marched to East Anglia with a force of mercenaries and laid siege to the castle. Roger was away, but Framlingham's garrison had 26 knights, 20 sergeants-at-arms, seven crossbowmen, one chaplain and three others. The castle surrendered after two days, most likely for political expediency – the Royal army was large and to surrender with all honour was preferable to sustaining damage which could be costly. The loss of the castle was temporary, however, and Roger died in 1221, his lands intact and the Bigod powerbase secured.

Roger's successor, Hugh Bigod II did not long survive his father and died in 1225, leaving Framlingham to pass to Roger's grandson, Roger Bigod III. The new king, Henry III, granted him the earldom in 1233. Roger III was already a wealthy magnate, but in 1248 he received vast lands in south Wales and Ireland on the death of his mother, Maud. Through his mother, Roger also gained the hereditary title of marshal, one of the most influential royal offices of medieval England. The position of earl marshal still exists today and is hereditary in the family of the Dukes of Norfolk, the successors of the Bigod family. The marshal was responsible for keeping order around the king. In peacetime this was a ceremonial and judicial role; with lucrative rights, such as securing gifts from newly created knights. During wartime, the marshal was responsible for the discipline of the army. Roger attended Henry III's Court and even hosted the king at Framlingham, but tensions arose over the repayment of debts to the king, as well as a growing criticism of royal government. In 1258, Roger was at the head of a rebel group of barons and knights who marched on Westminster Hall, compelling the king to accept major constitutional reforms, known as the Provisions of Oxford.

Roger Bigod III died in 1270 and his nephew, Roger Bigod IV inherited the Bigod estates. Like his uncle he served as earl marshal and was an important figure in Edward I's Welsh wars. The King even stayed at Framlingham in April 1277. However, their relationship became strained because of Roger IV's debts, Edward's tax demands and a dispute over the position of marshal. In 1297, Roger refused to fight for Edward in Gascony, France. It was under Roger Bigod IV that numerous repairs were made to the castle buildings; no doubt necessary with them now being nearly 100 years old. Carpenters were employed mending the roofs of towers, stone repairs were made to the bridge, old walling outside of the castle was repaired, new lodgings were built and the great dairy, the cowshed and the knights' lodgings were re-roofed. Roger IV also seems to have rebuilt the Great Hall, two metres wider and covering it with a lead roof. The three lower-level windows in the curtain wall, now inside the poorhouse, were also probably added at this stage. Ultimately, however, the expense of his quarrels with the king, together with his building projects, bankrupted him. He was forced to make Edward his heir and at his death in 1306 relinquished Framlingham to the Crown.

## Framlingham under the Brothertons

In 1312, Framlingham passed to Thomas Brotherton, half-brother of Edward II. On his death in 1338 his inheritance was divided between his two daughters, Margaret and Alice. In 1362, through marriage to Alice's daughter, Framlingham passed to William Ufford, the earl of Suffolk, who led the East Anglian resistance to the Peasants' Revolt of 1381. At Ufford's death in 1382, the estate reverted to Margaret, who lived at Framlingham for the next 17 years. She styled herself 'countess marshal', and in 1397 she was created duchess of Norfolk, the first English woman to be a duchess in her own right.

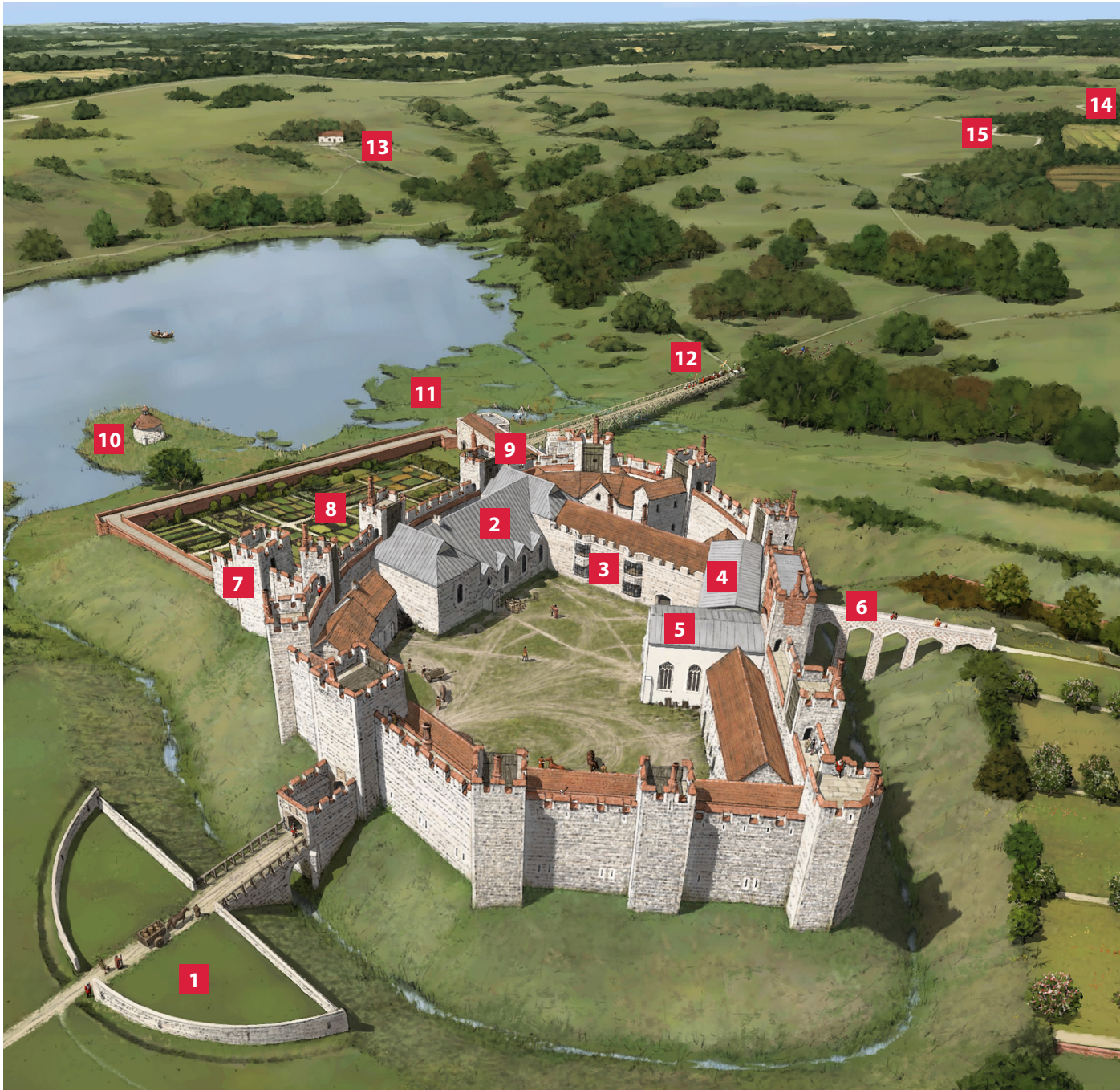
## Framlingham under the Mowbrays

Margaret's grandson and heir, Thomas Mowbray, was created first duke of Norfolk in 1397 by Richard II, but his dowager grandmother retained her East Anglian lands and estates until her death in 1399. Mowbray himself, exiled for treason to Venice, died only months later, and never lived at Framlingham. His son, Thomas Mowbray II, briefly inherited the Norfolk estates (although not the title of duke), but was executed for treason in 1405. His estates, including Framlingham, passed to his brother John Mowbray V in 1413, who was restored to the title as second duke of Norfolk in 1425. He died in 1432. It is likely that some refurbishment of the castle probably took place in the mid-15th century, under the next Mowbray duke, John Mowbray VI but nothing of this remains. His son, John Mowbray VII inherited the dukedom from his father in 1461. He died unexpectedly at Framlingham in 1476.

### ACTIVITY

Study the section on the following page and complete the relevant section of your timeline Framlingham under the Howards

## Framlingham Castle



- 1 Half-moon defence
- 2 Great hall
- 3 Great chamber
- 4 Chamber block
- 5 Chapel
- 6 Bridge to outer bailey garden
- 7 Western tower
- 8 Lower court garden
- 9 Prison chambers
- 10 Dovecote
- 11 Fishponds
- 12 Hunting party
- 13 Little lodge
- 14 Great lodge
- 15 Track along boundary of park

Image credit: Peter Urmston



The castle then passed to the Howard family, descendants of the Mowbrays. John Howard, grandson of Thomas Mowbray I, was made first duke of Norfolk in 1483, by the new king Richard III. This was one of the most prestigious and powerful positions in England. Under John Howard's brief tenure, Framlingham underwent substantial repairs and it is possible that some of the Tudor refurbishment around the castle, dates from this period. For example, there were further alterations to the Great Hall and probably at this time an inner wall was built against the curtain wall to straighten the hall's alignment. Howard was a loyal Yorkist supporter during the Wars of the Roses and died fighting for Richard III at the battle of Bosworth in 1485, aged 60. On Henry Tudor's victory, Framlingham was handed to Henry's great ally, John de Vere, earl of Oxford, who held the castle along with his other estates in East Anglia.

In 1489, John Howard's son, Thomas was restored to the title of earl of Surrey, having been imprisoned in the Tower of London for fighting alongside his father at Bosworth. He gradually recovered the Howard estates and served as earl marshal at the coronation of Henry VIII, becoming a leading minister in the Tudor court. In 1513, at the age of 70, he led the English forces to a critical victory against King James IV of Scotland at the battle of Flodden Field. This brought him back the title of duke of Norfolk and he was also granted the honour of augmentation of his family arms – an arrow piercing the mouth of the lion of Scotland.

Much like earlier owners of Framlingham, the Howards were eager to have a home which reflected their power, prestige and wealth. Much of the Tudor refurbishment of the castle should probably be dated to his tenure – notably the ornate brick chimneys, new arch in the gatehouse and probably many red brick buildings, now lost, inside the castle. The vogue for comfort and privacy meant many of the castle's towers were converted into private chambers. Brick was, by then, the most fashionable building material rather than local flint and septaria. It was a warmer and more flexible material than stone, and it was expensive, indicating the wealth of its owners.

Under Thomas, the western tower was altered to provide a viewing gallery for the earls and dukes and their guests to admire the peaceful garden below. This garden was the developed lower court, previously housing granaries, barns or stables; now laid out with herbs, fruit trees and fountains, the walls remodelled to allow guests to stroll down to the water's edge. The arrowloops of the tower were either blocked up with Tudor brick, or opened out into larger windows. New grand windows were knocked out on each side and new floors inserted. The joists for these later floors are still visible in the interior wall. In addition, the chamber block was refurbished in brick and further windows were cut

through the curtain wall. A window was opened up to create a door that led out to a bridge beyond, allowing access to the private garden in the bailey. The chimneys from the chamber block were extended with Tudor brick. These two chimneys, and the one in the Tudor room above, served fireplaces beneath them. The others around the castle walls were mostly decorative, intended to replicate the designs then fashionable at royal palaces of the period, such as Hampton Court. The bricks were moulded, allowing craftsmen to be imaginative, and each chimney has a different pattern – spiralled, zigzagged, herring-boned or interlaced – making a striking feature against the skyline.

Thomas Howard died in 1524 at Framlingham Castle, aged 80. The next Howard duke of



Image credits: English Heritage

Norfolk, also Thomas Howard, was not based at Framlingham but at the newly built ducal residence at Kenninghall in Norfolk. A scheming courtier and politician, he used his two nieces at Henry VIII's court – the king's wives Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard. By 1547 he had fallen out of favour with the king and was due to be executed, saved only by the fact that the king himself died the day before the sentence could be carried out. His title and lands were surrendered to the Crown, now in the hands of Edward VI.

### ACTIVITY

The role of castles tends to change over time. They can sometimes be:

- Military installations
- Homes
- Ways to impress people
- A way to expand and then protect the power and wealth of your family.

What do you think was the main role of Framlingham in the Tudor period under the Howard family? You can argue it was more than one if that is what you think, but make sure you use evidence to back up what you say.

## Framlingham under the Tudors

In 1552 Framlingham came to Mary Tudor. She had been granted most of the Howard estates in her father's will. When Edward died on 6<sup>th</sup> July 1553, he tried to surrender the Tudor line in favour of the Protestant Lady Jane Grey, a move supported by her father-in-law, the duke of Northumberland. As legal heir, Mary was in a dangerous position. She moved to Framlingham, the most secure of her properties, on 12<sup>th</sup> July; raised her standard and rallied her troops in a spectacular show of strength. Mary gained a lot of support, both from the local landed gentry and the lower classes. By 19<sup>th</sup> July, Northumberland had surrendered and news reached Mary at Framlingham that the Privy Council in London had accepted her as queen. She was crowned queen, in London, on 1<sup>st</sup> October. Mary released the elderly Thomas Howard from the Tower of London and restored his estates and dukedom, including Framlingham. The duke died the following year and the castle passed to his grandson, Thomas Howard who became the fourth Howard duke.

The fourth duke was the premier peer in the land during the early years of the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. However he was executed in 1572 for his part in a plot to marry Mary, queen of Scots, and overthrow Elizabeth. Framlingham passed back once more into royal hands. By this point the castle was in a bad state of repair. Perhaps one of the most symbolic indications of Framlingham's demise as a notable estate is that in 1580 the great deer park, exclusive playground to the earls and dukes for around 400 years, was officially 'disparked' and the protected boundaries removed, allowing wider access. Around 1600, there is some evidence of continued royal usage of Framlingham, although by this time it was limited to the housing of 40 inmates in the prison chambers as anti-Catholic laws hardened under Queen Elizabeth I.

## Framlingham in decline

Elizabeth's successor, James I returned Framlingham to the Howard family in 1603. In 1635 it was sold by the heavily indebted Theophilus Howard to a rich lawyer and politician Sir Robert Hitcham for £14,000. Hitcham was unmarried and with no heirs, at his death in 1636, the castle and its estates passed to his old college at Cambridge, Pembroke, on the condition that they followed detailed conditions of his will. He instructed that Framlingham and its estates be put in trust for the benefit of the poor of the towns of Framlingham, Debenham and Coggeshall. In particular he instructed that 'all the castle, saving the stone building, be pulled down' and a poorhouse set up. His will also made provision for almshouses and a schoolhouse to be built. Years of legal wrangling over the will, however, meant that the almshouses were not built until 1654. Soon afterwards the brick Red House was erected. For the next 30 years the funds for the poorhouse were mismanaged and it had to be closed entirely. The poor were sent back into town and Red House became used for selling ale.



*Image credit: English Heritage*

In 1699 a further attempt was made to establish a poorhouse for children. This enterprise also failed. Finally in 1729, a new poorhouse was built with parish funds in the site of the medieval castle's hall.

This was generally well-run and housed adults and children until 1839, when it closed and the poor were transferred to the larger Union workhouse at Wickham Market. The building was then converted into a parish hall. Framlingham is quite rare in the fact that, unlike many other castles, that may have fallen out of use, particularly after the Civil War, it has always had a use – as a centre of power, as a home or as a charitable institution.

### ACTIVITY

1. Use this final section to complete your timeline of Framlingham.
2. When do you think Framlingham was at its height? English Heritage has been approached by a company which runs historic attractions. They want to restore Framlingham to a particular period in time and offer tourists the experience of living there. They want your advice on:
  - Which period they should restore it to and why
  - What it should look like
  - The problems they might face.

You could consider the pros and cons of several different periods.





We'd like to know your view on the resources we produce. By clicking on the 'Like' or 'Dislike' button you can help us to ensure that our resources work for you. When the email template pops up please add additional comments if you wish and then just click 'Send'. Thank you.

If you do not currently offer this OCR qualification but would like to do so, please complete the Expression of Interest Form which can be found here: [www.ocr.org.uk/expression-of-interest](http://www.ocr.org.uk/expression-of-interest)

#### OCR Resources: *the small print*

OCR's resources are provided to support the teaching of OCR specifications, but in no way constitute an endorsed teaching method that is required by OCR. Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the content, OCR cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions within these resources. We update our resources on a regular basis, so please check the OCR website to ensure you have the most up to date version.

This resource may be freely copied and distributed, as long as the OCR logo and this small print remain intact and OCR is acknowledged as the originator of this work.

OCR acknowledges the use of the following content:  
Square down and Square up: alexwhite/Shutterstock.com.

All images, plans and maps unless otherwise stated, are copyright to English Heritage Trust/EH Guidebooks.

Please get in touch if you want to discuss the accessibility of resources we offer to support delivery of our qualifications:  
[resources.feedback@ocr.org.uk](mailto:resources.feedback@ocr.org.uk)

#### Looking for a resource?

There is now a quick and easy search tool to help find **free** resources for your qualification:

[www.ocr.org.uk/i-want-to/find-resources/](http://www.ocr.org.uk/i-want-to/find-resources/)

[www.ocr.org.uk/gcsereform](http://www.ocr.org.uk/gcsereform)

OCR Customer Contact Centre

#### General qualifications

Telephone 01223 553998

Facsimile 01223 552627

Email [general.qualifications@ocr.org.uk](mailto:general.qualifications@ocr.org.uk)

OCR is part of Cambridge Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge. *For staff training purposes and as part of our quality assurance programme your call may be recorded or monitored.*

© **OCR 2016** Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations is a Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England. Registered office 1 Hills Road, Cambridge CB1 2EU. Registered company number 3484466. OCR is an exempt charity.

